DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 082 760 LI 004 481

TITLE	...To Gain Access to Knowledge.... Report of the Library Development Program.
INSTITUTION	Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. Library Development Program.
PUB DATE	71
NOTE	47p.; (2 references); Cuadernos Bibliotecologicos No. 55 (English)
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	Books; Foreign Countries; Libraries; Library Material Selection; *Library Programs; *Library Services; Technology; University Libraries
IDENTIFIERS	*Latin America; Library Development; OAS; Organization of American States

ABSTRACT

The Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture of the Organization of American States (OAS) at its Second Meeting in Lima in February 1971 requested of the General Secretariat a report on the contents, objectives, scope and execution of its program for library development particularly on the selection, compilation and lists of books. The report consists, therefore, of two principal parts, the general activities of the Library Development Program as approved by the Inter-American Cultural Council at its Sixth Meeting in Trinidad for the improvement of library services, bibliography and archives, and its activities related to its specific objectives of "contributing to improved conditions in the exchange of, trade in, and distribution of books and of cooperating in the formation and issuance of American bibliographical information" as a principal activity of the Regional Cultural Program. The report is prefaced by a description of modern library services in response to a technological age and how the OAS responds to the problems of modernizing and extending library services in Latin America and for world-wide scholarship which must have access to the publications emanating from Latin America. (Author/SJ)

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No. 55 (English)

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... TO GAIN ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE ...

Report of the

Library Development Program

LI 004 481

1971

SECRETARIA GENERAL
ORGANIZACION DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS
Washington, D.C.

This report was prepared in fulfilment of Resolution CIECC-89/71, and was issued in abridged form in document "Informes de Secretaría y documentos" of the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIDEC), May 10-14, 1971. Washington, D.C. (OEA/Ser.J/XII/doc. 13, 6 de mayo 1971)

UP/0.2
II/III.55(English)
June 1971

Original: English
Limited distribution

This series is prepared in the Library Development Program, Department of Cultural Affairs, Executive Secretariat for Education, Science and Culture, Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. 20006

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... TO GAIN ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE ...

Introducción

The Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture at its Second Meeting in Lima in February 1971 requested of the General Secretariat a report on the contents, objectives, scope and execution of its program for library development particularly on the selection, compilation and lists of books. (CIECC-89/71). The following report will consist, therefore, of two principal parts, the general activities of the Library Development Program as approved by the Inter-American Cultural Council at its Sixth Meeting in Trinidad (CIC-26/69) for the improvement of library services, bibliography and archives, and its activities related to its specific objectives of "contributing to improve conditions in the exchange of, trade in, and distribution of books and of cooperating in the formation and issuance of American bibliographical information" as a principal activity of the Regional Cultural Program. The principles and activities of the Library Development Program were set forth in Document 9 of the Fifth Meeting of the Council in Maracay, 1968, entitled "Culture in Relation to Development", and approved in the resolution entitled "Regional Program of School and University Library Development" (CIC-22/68).

The report will be prefaced by a description of modern library services in response to a technological age and how the OAS responds to the problems of modernizing and extending library services in Latin America and for worldwide scholarship which must have access to the publications emanating from Latin America.

" ... to gain access to knowledge and equal opportunity for all..."

> "We, the American Republics, hereby proclaim our decision to unite in a common effort to bring our people accelerated economic progress and broader social justice within the framework of personal dignity and political liberty.
>
> "Almost two hundred years ago we began in this Hemisphere the long struggle for freedom which now inspires people in all parts of the world. Today, in ancient lands, men moved to hope by the revolutions of our young nations search for liberty. Now we must give a new meaning to that revolutionary heritage. For America stands at a turning point in history. The men and women of our Hemisphere are reaching for the better life which today's skills have placed within their grasp. They are determined for themselves and their children to have decent and ever more abundant lives, to gain access to knowledge and equal opportunity for all, to end those conditions which benefit the few at the expense of the needs and dignity of the many. It is our inescapable task to fulfill these just desires -- to demonstrate to the poor and forsaken of our countries, and of all lands, that the creative powers of free men hold the key to their progress and to the progress of future generations. And our certainty of ultimate success rests not alone on our faith in ourselves and in our nations but on the indomitable spirit of free man which has been the heritage of American civilization."

Inspired by these principles, enunciated in the Preamble to the Charter of Punta del Este, the representatives of the American Nations went on to specify the goals which they wished to achieve in a ten-year period, prefacing them with a statement of the purpose for which they were joining together in a formal Alliance for Progress:

> "It is the purpose of the Alliance for Progress to enlist the full energies of the peoples and governments of the American republics in a great cooperative effort to accelerate the economic and social development of the participating countries of Latin America, so that they may achieve maximum levels of well-being, with equal opportunities for all, in democratic societies adapted to their own needs and desires."

The fact that the fundamental and transcendental desire and need "to gain access to knowledge and equal opportunity for all" is the first turn of the key required to unleash the "creative powers of free men" to apply "to their progress and the progress of future generations" should not be obscured by other activities carried out by the OAS in fulfillment of the objectives of the Alliance for Progress. Considered from the point of view of the need "to gain access to knowledge," we may say that most all of the substantive activities of the OAS are aimed indirectly at achieving that objective, and of putting knowledge and information to work in the interest of social progress in the Americas.

This holds for the economist in his efforts to improve the gross national product, for the statistician in his concern for recording data which will assist in the development of plans for progress at all levels and in all aspects of national growth, for the sociologist in resolving the problems of urban and rural life in the face of the population explosion, for the medical man and the agronomist in bringing better health and nourishment to the individual, for the scientist and technologist in speeding up the transfer and utilization of technology to improve living conditions, and for the educator in his desire to effect improved educational facilities at all levels.

The strategy developed to achieve the objective in different fields of endeavor of the OAS, the tactics used in the progress of the various activities and programs may vary in accordance with the characteristics of each field and enterprise, but the end product is the same -- if the individual citizen can be assured of access to knowledge, is given the opportunity to learn how to use it, and is guaranteed an equal opportunity for individual development within the political and govenmental structure of his country and within the family of nations, we assume as a democratic principle that he will have the ability for personal progress and can contribute to the progress of future generations.

All progress and development depends to a great degree on the extent to which information is available, information on which to base decisions, to make choices, to develop new industries and generate the government resources for improving living and other social conditions, to lift and expand the intellectual level of the peoples, and to incorporate the indigenous population into national social and cultural life. It is a basic element in research and investigation. Knowledge of experience in other geographical and disciplinary areas will determine to a considerable extent the success which innovations and the adaptation of technological advances may have in the developing countries of Latin America.

Access to knowledge goes hand-in-hand with the "right to read" which is implicit in the principle of the right to free speech expression. The right to read and the availability of reading matter within the reach of the individual are the means whereby the individual assembles information, digests and interprets it, and derives his concept of truth. How man has chosen to use his knowledge and information and has manipulated or used his concept of truth is the history of mankind.

Inherent in the democratic concept of freedom is that of seeking and finding truth. Unexpressed but underlying the statement of hope and aspirations for freedom in the Charter of Punta del Este establishing the Alliance for Progress is the oft repeated Christian doctrine "Ye shall know the Truth, and the truth will make you free."

It is within this framework of underlying principles of human behavior and of stated objectives of the Organization of American States that we must consider the nature and role of the Library and of the OAS program for the development of libraries, archives, bibliography and documentation. Its fundamental goal is that of effecting the widest possible communication and dissemination of information stored in and derived from recorded sources, whatever may be their format and wherever they are to be found, for the betterment of the individual and for the progress of the region.

PART A. THE MODERN LIBRARY AND THE TECHNOLOGICAL AGE

I. The Modern Library and the newer Technology of Communication

It is the purpose of this paper to interpret the scope of the problems related to assuring access to information and of the activities which the Library Development Program uses to resolve them, in the light of modern library and information services, in the context of both the needs and the realities of Latin America, in accordance with the mandates of the various organs and instruments of the OAS, and subject to its budgetary restrictions.

The Library and the Storage and Communication of Information

A thorough study of the development of the Library in modern times would require an historical exploration of the evolution of the recorded word from hieroglyphics chiselled on stone, to the development of paper and eventually the printing press, to the typewriter and carbon paper, the camera and its use in reprography, and to the computer and its tapes, as well as a venture into an explanation of the staggeringly rapid advances in the last half of this century of the informational media which the library can use to help the individual. The ubiquitous telephone, closed-circuit television, facsimile transmission of documents by television and telephone, radio, cable, and now Telex communication to speed up inter-library loan call today for the creation and maintenance of networks of information systems for the use of the various media and of the various communications services for the purpose of getting information to the person or institution which needs it.

In a high-level meeting a few years back to consider the potential of the new technologies for libraries in developing areas of the world, discussion centered chiefly around the following: 1) the application of microfilm and other microform reproduction of existing works; 2) television; 3) communication satellites; and 4) computers. It was agreed that when these technologies had been

experimented with and developed to their maximum potential in the developed areas of the world, they could be effectively applied for more rapid application in the developed countries. However, it seemed that the more immediate need was for less sophisticated "hardware" such as spare parts for typewriters, large numbers of inexpensive machines to reproduce catalog cards, photocopying and reading machines for use in individual libraries and other equipment found useful and necessary in libraries.

The need for the application of new techniques and technology in the educational process was viewed as fundamental to speed up development especially in consideration of the vastness of the problem and the rate at which the more developed countries of the world are pushing forward with an acceleration in the creation of new knowledge and technological advances. Concurrently a considerable amount of research, experimentation and evaluation was deemed necessary to measure the effectiveness of the application of new techniques and technology. In matters affecting libraries, this research would cover the learning processes of the illiterate, television as a valid means of carrying out literacy teaching and education in general, the role of the public and school library in elementary learning of children and adults, kinds of reading materials most needed in developing countries and in what languages and levels, degree and extent of the need for scientific information, etc. The use of the new technologies and techniques in education was viewed as something which would increase the need for and use of libraries as the population becomes more literate. This is turn would require a more rapid and effective development of library services at all levels.

In the meantime, for the full utilization of information a greater understanding must be achieved of what information is, what its characteristics are, what the sources of information are, and what the devices may be that can help to get the information to the potential user, what are people more inclined to want to know. Similarities as well as differences between a datum, a fact or a figure, or a bit of information may be somewhat inconsequential for the librarian concerned with traditional reference services, but in teamwork with the computer specialist, the systems analyst, or with a national economic planner, such understanding of the elementary components of information is essential if we are to expect an electronic device to provide it. The nature of the informational problem to be solved must be known in order to determine how to find its solution.

All these latter-day technological developments have tended to obscure the need for the information to be stored somehow in original form and be organized in orderly fashion for quick retrieval. More information can now be conveyed and transmitted than ever before, if we are willing to pay the costs. The Modern Library uses each and every one of those devices in one way or another.

To fulfill its purpose of satisfying individual or institutional needs and interests which involve information, knowledge and truth, as well as the traditional coding devices, keys and guides which are accepted as a part of library organization and service, the Modern Library, or what we speak of as "library services", is in effect a network of information services by means of which the individual library serves as the central switchboard, or the interface if you will, between historical development of information and knowledge and the consumer of data and knowledge.

In the five years that have lapsed since the meeting spoken of previously, great strides have been made in the more developed countries of Latin America as well as in the rest of the developed world in the utilization of the newer communications technologies for application to library services. The Library Development Program must be cognizant of these developments in the pursuit of its activities.

II. What is a Library?

Before we can determine priority activities for the improvement of library services we must know what we are talking about insofar as libraries are concerned. First, and foremost, what is a Library?

The Inter-American Cultural Council at its 1968 meeting in Maracay, accepted the suggestion of the General Secretariat that it is one of the principal cultural instruments useful for development. The Secretary General, in proposing the total reorientation of the activities of the Organization, suggested that the development of libraries should be one of the sixteen "areas of concentration" for the purposes of Program and Budget.

The concept which one has of a library reveals to a significant degree the educational and professional experience of the individual and of the use which ha has made of the library. Training for some professions can be achieved almost solely on the basis of textbook, and the pursuit of the profession requires little or no use of books other than textbooks and technical manuals. Others are based principally on journals and the newer medium of technical reports, which may or may not be reproduced either prior or subsequent to its appearance as a journal article, with only occasional consultation of information in book form. The liberal professions may demand more recourse to books, journals, newspapers, and other types of materials. If one has used a library principally as a study hall in which to study his own textbooks or one provided for him by the library, he may be completely unaware of the vast span of informational and bibliographical services which he could utilize. The concept which one holds of a library today will limit the potential of the service he may derive from it. Let us consider a variety of popular concepts of a library in the following "Decalog" of concepts and developments of the institution called "a library."

1. A Library is a mausoleum, a graveyard of untouched, yellowing copies of the annual reports of government agencies, of leather-bound copies of the literature of the nineteenth century in foreign languages donated by someone whose predecessor read and admired them and which out of respect for the printed word we hate to reduce to ashes of pulp for newer books.

Many libraries in Latin America, especially those which in the last century were given the name of "public libraries", were, for all intents and purposes, still-born. However, even the library-mausoleum has its purposes if it is created for the purpose of serving as a depository collection for a network or consortium of libraries to which member libraries may send their little used material, and which would retain one copy of each title for inter-library loan purposes on request.

2. A Library is an art museum wherein repose rare works of fine typography, of beautiful illustrations, of elaborate and exotic bindings, of parchment and other remarkable printing paper. This type of library, can be seen in the Escorial in Spain, some rare book libraries and rare book collections of many of the research libraries of the United States. Some few such collections exist in Latin America and many more can be brought into organized and restored form when personnel is trained for the purpose.

3. A Library is an archive of books and journals kept apart from its potential user and where the work can be consulted only in the building and returned to its proper place on the closed shelves at the close of the day. It can be inventoried, and any losses may have to be paid for by the librarian who, understandably enough, is reluctant to have anything used. Books cannot be borrowed for use at home or outside the library. In this concept the book is a capital investment and treated as a piece of permanent equipment, and not an article of supply and consumption which can be replaced.

The concept of open shelves and free access to the shelves by the users is still not widespread in Latin America, and a great deal of money each year goes into the process of continuous inventory of the collection rather than into reader services.

4. A Library is "the people's university" in pleasant surroundings, where the best and most important of man's wisdom and knowledge is assembled in orderly fashion, where assistance is given to the reader to find what he wants and needs to expand his horizons, and where special attention is given to group interests whether they be pre-school children, or harried housewives, auto mechanics, businessmen, or politicians, or a dozen others, and where other educational and cultural events may also take place regularly.

The Library as a "people's university" is a community center where parents go for continued education, albeit even to learn to read, and to get material on which to acquire a reading skill, where the child may sit in rapt attention at a story told by a modern minstrel who has learned the techniques of spurring a child's imagination to assume the role of a participant with the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood rather than as a spectator as he may see it in the movies or on television, where a businessman can get by phone the latest information he may need for the expansion of his business. If for any reason the individual cannot go to the library, it will go to him through bookmobile and other extension services. It will also provide for exhibits, for lectures, perhaps for concerts, and for meetings and other purposes of an educational and recreational nature.

A few of these exist in Latin America, created usually by the energies of a single imaginative person who is able to transmit his enthusiasm for library services to the city fathers or corporate authorities for adequate financial support.

5. A Library is a specialized working collection of reference works, reports, and other works which provide the basic information needed for a commercial firm, a hospital, a laboratory or research institute. The size and nature of the

collection will depend more than anything else on the library resources of the geographical and subject area and of the cooperative agreements among institutions for the mutual sharing of information, materials, and services.

One librarian-documentalist recently compared the time he spent with a universally known commercial electronics firm where a number of large mailbags of publications arrived each day, and where some 100 librarians, specialists, and assistants were involved in sorting, analyzing, indexing and abstracting, and organizing the material for use. His next assignment was in New York City, where he worked with the assistance of one and one-half secretaries, and a small reference collection of some 300 directories, bibliographies, and bibliographical services, and utilized the library resources of the area to answer the reference needs of a firm.

6. A Library is a data-bank in which is stored and to which is added information in all forms in a very highly specialized area of a field, and where special procedures are developed for organization and for service. It may rely as much on card files of unique information as on published sources.

7. A Library is a storehouse of human knowledge. When efficiently organized and using the most advanced techniques, it stores the most representative of human accomplishment , is manned and managed by trained personnel, both librarians and subject specialists, and provides services which lead to ready access to knowledge and information reproduced in recorded form. It can generate its own dynamic force if directed by professionals who understand the methods of putting knowledge to work, and know that what is kept in the storehouse is meant to be used and not to be forgotten and disregarded.

This is the kind of library most needed in Latin America today, and in the largest number of institutions and places.

8. A Library is a materials center, a newer version of the "storehouse" concept, for the maintenance and use of audiovisual materials and equipment as well as of printed materials. As a materials center it can also be a learning center where the primary responsibility is on the person, with or without guidance from someone else. Thus it is a living means of continuing education.

9. A Library is communications center or terminal with functions similar to communications centers such as bus terminals or even newspaper offices. The bus comes in to the terminal, and is sent out on another route, in accordance with a routing plan. News comes into the newspaper, is digested, and the appropriate information abstracted for the next issue or for subsequent issues at a later date.

The library communications center accepts information in printed form primarily, reviews, analyzes and abstracts it, and sends it out to special interest groups or to interested individuals. In recent years a number of commercial firms have also been created to provide this service both to groups or to individuals on a subscription basis and frequently by the aid of electronic data processing equipment and programs. In many instances they have redeveloped techniques similar to those used by librarians over the years, but the technological background of the developers has frequently led to a new vocabulary, sometimes revitalized, sometimes only partially developed in comparision with library techniques.

A precious few of such communications centers now exist in Latin America. Their existence, in great numbers and in varying forms with various titles describing their services in the developed countries of the world, serves to hide the fact that they are a manifestation of the Modern Library as a documentation and information center. Electronic devices are now being used to supplant former manual operations in the storage and communication of information.

10. The Library is a nerve center palpitating to the electronic impulses of the computer and the electronic communications media, penetrating the interface between the information itself and the potential user, where the "reader's profile" of user interests has supplanted the "reader's file" of the public library's Readers' Advisory Service, where the specialized "thesaurus" has taken the place of the cataloger's special "subject heading list", where the "alerting service" to call attention to potentially interested individuals and groups to new and future publications substitutes for the special reading lists of traditional libraries, where such devices as the "KWIK" indexes speed up the indexing process for journal articles and technical reports effectively in science and technology, and where the specialists in systems, data processing and computers serve in the electronic management of information.

Like the communications center it has its own preconceived operational plan and program. Impulses race through the computer terminal to put the user in contact with the information and keep him in contact until he is satisfied or knows that he cannot be satisfied. The library nerve center may furthermore serve the function of transmitting back into the data bank (whether computer or traditional print) the new information generated from the users' use of the services of the center.

The Modern Library is much more than the sum of its collections, its personnel, its equipment and its physical plant. It is the intellectual accomplishment of mankind in recent years preserved in living form for use.

The selection of the most desirable or needed concepts of the Library is basic to a determination as to how the OAS can attempt to improve the services rendered by libraries viewed from the categories of school, public, university and special libraries, documentation centers, and national information systems. A modern materials center, for instance, is essentially a school library whose scope has been expanded in accordance with technological educational developments which utilize audiovisual and other teaching aids and equipment for individual learning as well as books, magazines and textbooks.

III. The Library in Latin America and Technological Growth

The most serious problem facing the OAS Program of Library Development is how to bring the Latin American library into the electronic age of the Twentieth Century, to effect the basic changes needed to absorb advanced technological means of communicating information in face of the need to change first or at same time the attitudes themselves toward the communication of information and redirect them away from individualistic self-interest to that of mutual concern and acceptance of the value of cooperative effort. This miracle of evolution must be affected in a relatively short period of time if Latin America is to be able to absorb technological change without a nuclear explosion of society itself. Political overtones of national attitudes will be in conflict with hopes for cultural integration if the peoples of Latin America are to have full access to information for their own personal and national progress.

Although this paper does not pretend to suggest means of surmounting the overwhelming educational, social, cultural and political problems or of penetrating the interface between things as they are and things as things should be, nonetheless, it must be understood that the Library as a cultural institution or as an electronic communications service cannot be expected to progress faster than the educational or any other aspect of national and regional development. The OAS Program of Library Development aspires, nonetheless, to keep up with and assist in overall development of the region.

The simple and undeniable fact is that Latin America has never had even a minimum of the number of libraries which have been needed for its own development and the book has not been used as an instrument of instruction and a basic element of education at any level. Books have been more respected than used. Those who felt the need of books and access to them in libraries and who had the means to do so developed their own private collections. This neglect of the institutional development of libraries becomes apparent as government planners seek the information they need for planning purposes, and to learn of technology and techniques which can be utilized in more rapid national progress in industry and trade, as well as in educational improvement and extension. As they have sought to modernize both government structure and educational structure, an awareness of the neglect of books and libraries has begun to increase.

At the same time they are reluctant to face the fact that books cost money, that personnel has to be trained and compensated at rates comparable with other university-based professions, and that there must be regular budgeting to assure the kinds of materials which are needed for the purposes for which the differing kinds of libraries are to exist. Frequently, fascinated by the mysterious potential of the technological developments such as the digital computer and the enthusiasm and persuasive ability of the hardware, they cling to the false hope that if they wait long enough they may not have to spend money on libraries or even on documentation centers, which they also view as a means of avoiding maintaining libraries.

Added problems for the OAS in seeking to improve library services, as well as of the libraries in resolving their own problems, come from outside the library itself. They are related to the need for bibliographic control to know what is being published at ever-increasing rates of growth, how to get it, how to inform others of what is being published nationally and internationally. The explosion of information and publication, a revolution started by the invention of the printing press, has been triggered by technological advances. Another problem is that of sorting out from this flood of new material what is needed especially by Latin America and especially in Spanish and Portuguese. What can be done to keep up with the phenomenon of the population explosion and to provide adequate libraries services at all levels to more and more people?

A review of the library situation in Latin America and current trends inside and outside of that area which will affect its growth and progress is especially necessary at this time when planning for a new Regional Program of Cultural Development succeeds the other stages of the evolution of Latin American development directed first at the economic and social problems, then at educational and scientific and technological progress as basic to economic and social problems, and as attention to strenghthening individual institutions for national

and regional development follows upon concentration on the international instruments for trade and industry and national planning for the best use of financial resources. It is especially appropriate to examine how the Organization of American States has responded to Latin American and Inter-American needs with respect to the informational and library support for national development and for integration efforts.

Numerous reviews of the status of library development in Latin America have been made in recent years by the Library Development Program in order to plan the activities it will carry out to further library development and to assist the governments and librarians of Latin America especially to resolve the problems common to most libraries. Some of these reports are annexed to this part in order to permit at this time a review of the potential for libraries in Latin America for which the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture must plan as a complement to as well as an integral part of the development of institutions, instruments, structures, and mechanisms for development in these as well as in economic and social fields. Perhaps the most significant report is a synthesis of the detailed study made of all aspects of library development in order to plan a six-year program and which formed the introduction to the presentation of the OAS six-year program and budget, and which is entitled "Analysis of the Library Situation in Latin America: 1969."*

As in other aspects of development in Latin America, there is a wide divergence in library development between some countries and others, and even within the countries themselves. The goal is to bring libraries into closer operational contact one with another, with governmental planning and sponsorship whenever possible, to use minimum resources for maximum benefit, and thereby to effect the library services.

The Library in Latin America, as in the developed areas of the world, has attempted to keep apace of the evolution of recorded knowledge and of the generation of new knowledge and information. This has caused such a severe strain on its financial resources that more attractive nomenclature has sometimes been applied to seek more adequate support for even traditional services which libraries have performed in the developed countries for a century or more. We find, therefore, that the more impressive terms of "documentation center", or "information center" and even "data bank" are used to express what is nothing more then the storage of materials containing information and the provision of reference services traditional in libraries, with special services rendered in special libraries to help ferret out information required by the user.

The Library in Latin America, virtually unsurmountable obstacles notwithstanding, has in the past quarter century made great strides in eliminating the barriers which stand between the person and the information he needs. This is being done by an improvement in collections, by creating new finding

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* Washington, D.C., Secretaría General, Organización de los Estados Americanos, 1970. 7p. (Cuadernos bibliotecológicos, no. 52, English)

devices in the nature of specialized bibliographies, indexes and catalogs, in the organization of improved reader services, in extending the training of personnel, in adopting standards for financial support in order to marshal necessary funds and training personnel, and in presenting an organized professional front in creating a climate for increased funds for library maintenance.

This has been done in the face of the restrictive characteristics of education based on an oral tradition, at all educational levels, of a lack of use even of textbooks, of part-time teachers who devote little attention to individual learning and research on the part of the students, and of the proliferation of small faculty "libraries" isolated one from another and without common centralized administration or technical control, and with much duplication of materials and work.

The librarians of Latin America, bogged down for years with the internal organization of libraries, are beginning to concern themselves with external elements which are of as much importance to the library as the internal organization. Librarians have long recognized the importance and need of better bibliographical control of the output of Latin America, and in one form or another have attempted to improve the situation. With greater financial resources for the purchase of books and periodicals they have become aware of their dependence on international as well as national booktrade patterns and currency exchange controls limiting book purchases, customs restrictions to the free circulation of printed works, copyright problems, and even the part which postal services play in getting books to and from libraries. National networks of communication and dissemination of information will necessarily be affected even by the quality of postal services.

The rapid development of computer technology and the vision of the utilization of communications satellites for educational purposes as well as for the communication of information such as in the field of science and applied science has led also to the concept of information systems and the development of certain electronic techniques of storing and retrieving information which have caused those who have not utilized libraries and library services extensively to view the library as obsolete. The truth of the matter is that little of that now being done electronically and by information systems was not done manually by libraries during the past century.

The concepts on which information systems are built are essentially those of networks, cooperative systems and consortia of libraries, and the devices and principles used to analyze the content of each piece of recorded information and interpret it according to preconceived codes are rediscoveries of those principles and concepts which librarians have forgotten to stress in their effort to keep abreast of the modern world. Even the "thesaurus" of the information specialist is the "subject heading list" of the librarian. The computer tape is the book shelf or shelf of books and the card catalog of the library. The information system developed by a commercial firm to analyze and syntesize (or abstract) the technical report or journal article is now done electronically but the intellectual work involved is virtually the same as that of the specialized personnel or special library of twenty years ago.

Had the librarian not organized knowledge and information before him, the present day information specialist and systems analyst might not now have the new technological devices. Concurrently, the Library itself has been electronically revolutionized. Catalogs printed from computers are substituting for card catalog for libraries and library systems. Books are ordered by computers by a universal system of SBN (Standard Book Numbers). Budgets are planned in accordance with a PBPS (planning-budgeting-programming-system). Readers' interests are recorded in the computer in "readers' profiles." Microfilm tapes have supplanted interminable lanes of bound newspapers and journals, and microfiche is replacing pamphlets, technical reports, and conference documentation. New bibliographic information coming from the Library of Congress on magnetic tape is programmed to merge weekly with the information already stored on the tape and which the libraries are procuring to ease their acquisitions pains and their bibliographic problems. Library schools have been converted into schools of library and information science, training both technicians in the application of newer technologies to library needs and librarians to the use of electronic devices. "Library automation" occupies the same amount of space in library literature this year as do school libraries.

The Library has come of age. So, incidentally, has the Latin American librarian. Leaders of the library profession are to be found working with computer technicians in applying technology to the new information services performed in Latin America by Latin Americans for Latin American consumption. New programs of the OAS in the field of technology transfer for industry can count on the library profession in Latin America to bear its load in the transmission of information if the governmental authorities can understand the nature of the breadth and depth of library infrastructure required to develop the information system needed by each country and by the region.

PART B. THE OAS LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

I. Trends in Activities of the OAS Affecting the Library Development Program*

One of the principal responsibilities of all of the programs of the OAS is that of giving support to the Organs of the Inter-American System, preparing position papers and reports at the request of the various Councils and their committees, and in support of the priorities established for each program, and of evaluating its activities for continuing review as well as for the budgeting process. This requires not only a concern for the principles inherent in the resolutions related directly to each program, but a constant revision and interpretation of the intent of resolutions in the light of newer and subsequent development within the System which may change the focus of the program.

Mandates must also be translated into budgetary terms which frequently require the abandonment or at least neglect of activities called for by the respective organs. This has become more apparent as the programs selected as areas of concentration, as was library development, reorient their day-by-day activities to make possible greater emphasis on technical assistance and on training. In Library Development, demands from the Member states far exceed the ability of the Secretariat personnel provided in the budget.

For an understanding of what this means in program terms, a brief review is in order of major developments within the Inter- American System which directly affected library development and the OAS programs in this field, as follows:

1889-1930 Creation and Maintenance of the Columbus Memorial Library

This was the period of growth of the Library and of achieving the necessary agreements with Member states and their significant publishing institutions to assure the receipt of the principal works of importance not only for the pursuit of the programs of the organization, but as a principal bibliographical resource of works on Latin America for the purposes of scholarship, in accordance with the resolution creating the Library. To the Library the early Inter-American Conferences ascribed responsibility for promoting improved bibliographic control and increased exchange of publications in accordance with various resolutions.

1930-1948 Bibliographic Series of the Columbus Memorial Library

The Library of the Pan American Union initiated in 1930 its Bibliographic Series especially for the compilation and publication of specialized bibliographies and directories of use to libraries in the Hemisphere and occasionally a manual of assistance in the internal organization of libraries in Latin America.

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* See Appendix A for the significant events in library development in which the OAS has participated.

1948-1956 Library Services of the OAS and Assistance to Library Development in Latin America

The OAS accepted the principle that its Library had the dual function of aiding in the improvement of library and bibliographic services in Latin America and of improving inter-American library relations, as well as of giving library services principally to the General Secretariat. The acquisitions program of the Library was used not only to increase the procurement of new publications from Latin America but as a means of distribution of the OAS documents and publications and exchange opportunities for the libraries of the Hemisphere.

1956-1961 Active Program of Library Development in the Americas

The general scope and priorities of an active program of library development in the Americas was spelled out in various resolutions of the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Cultural Council in Lima in 1956. (CIC-II-Res.IV, V/56). At its request a five-year plan for library development was prepared by the Library and submitted to the OAS Council. Funds were made available for a modest beginning in resolving the problems especially of libraries in Latin America by means of a separate budget for developmental purpose. In addition to a two-member professional and two-person secretarial staff, funds were budgeted for travel to meet in conferences with Latin American librarians and in other professional meetings with world leaders in library development and to confer with government authorities. A publication program was initiated to provide the basic tools for the internal organization of libraries, surveys and studies of various aspects of the library picture in Latin America and what it should be, as well as reports of meetings and other technical publications. A quarterly newsletter was begun to inform librarians of Latin America of other developments in Latin America and of events elsewhere in the world of special significance to them.

In 1956 the first Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials was sponsored by the OAS in an effort to use this means of improving bibliographic services and improving booktrade facilities of benefit not only to libraries in Latin America but research collections for Latin America area studies programs in the United States. The OAS has continued to serve as the Secretariat for the annual Seminars. Increasing numbers of Latin American librarians have been attending the annual Seminars at their own expense or that of their institutions, as well as Latin American representatives of book publishing and selling. The value of the Seminars to interrelate libraries, the booktrade, university presses and university professors in their teaching and research was pointed out by the Third Meeting of CIC, in Puerto Rico in 1958 in resolutions related both to the universities in the Americas and concerning library problems and the expansion of the Library Development Program (CIC-III-Res. XII, XXIV, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII and XXXVI especially)

Occasional requests for technical assistance and for fellowships came from libraries and librarians, and some requests were granted. However, the fellowships which had been anticipated from the OAS for undergraduate study at the

Inter-American Library School in Colombia could not be supplied because of the emphasis on graduate and specialized study on the part of the OAS Fellowship Program. Nonetheless, great efforts were made by the staff of the Library Development Program during this period to give technical and moral support to the creation, maintenance, and expansion of the Inter-American Library School as central means of training library personnel for those countries which could not support their own basic training programs as well as for specialized training for those from all countries. This concentration on work with the library school was also in fulfillment of the resolution of the Cultural Council that the emphasis of the program should be on training of library personnel.

1961-1968 The Alliance for Progress and Library Services

The 1961 meeting at Punta del Este, although it called for the expansion of school and public libraries, approved other resolutions of even greater significance in their impact on library development. The first and perhaps the most significant was the need for national planning, which led not only to activities and efforts in support of national planning for library services, but meetings and publications dealing with the subject. (Res. A.1.2.b, c, f, g, h, and k; A.1.5; A.6) A meeting on international programs of assistance to library and informations services was sponsored to assist the OAS and other international funding organizations in establishing their priorities in accordance with the recommendations of Latin American librarians.

Alliance emphasis on improving educational facilities at all levels on the eradication of illiteracy, improvement of higher education, the teaching of science and on research, on educational methods, and the development of national educational plans was of special significance in determining how books and libraries could fulfill their obligations in these efforts. At the initiation of the Alliance a review was made of the book and library needs of Latin America, and a ten-year plan and schedule for rational progression of activities required was drawn up and priorities were set up for the reorientation of its library and bibliographic development program. The degree of positive results from the Alliance may be said to correspond in almost direct proportions to the provision of funds especially for school and public library services.

The Education Task Force of the OAS and the Alliance in its attempt to point up the most serious weaknesses of the educational picture in Latin America not only called also for increased attention to improved school and public library services, but stressed the problem which virtually makes impossible the development of such services. (ETF, Programs for Immediate Action, nos. 9, 16, 19, and 20) This problem is the almost total lack of children's books in Spanish and Portuguese and of easy-to-read materials for adults. The ETF recommended financing the large-scale production and distribution of low-cost books, and the use of an ad hoc committee for selection purposes. Before the conclusion of the work of the ETF the OAS had sponsored the creation of a non-profit organization of an international character to promote the production and distribution of low-cost editions of easy-to-read materials for both children and adults, Books for the People Fund, Inc., as a means of making possible the adequate functioning of school and public libraries for both formal and information education. Its activities are described later in this paper.

In contrast, much greater results have been made at the other end of the spectrum with respect to university libraries and higher education and for research in science and technology as a result of the efforts of member governments to improve both the physical facilities and the pedagogical aspects of higher education, and by Inter-American Bank and World Bank loans, by the assistance given through the Agency for International Development to higher education, by philanthropic foundations with their interest in improving the structure and facilities especially of selected institutions, and by the various organs of the OAS and of the United Nations.

Bank loans for the improvement of university facilities brought with it both the opportunity for the improvement of university library physical quarters in the construction of new library buildings and for the improvement of library collections through grants and loans for their purchase. Other deficiencies then became evident, especially the lack of bibliographical aids for the selection of the books and journals which university libraries should have, (as well as for school and public libraries), and adequate mechanisms for the acquisition of priority items and centralized procurement and processing services. Outside funds were obtained in order to hold a 3-day meeting of experts in the selection and procurement of materials for university libraries and in the application of computers both to bibliographical compilation and library cataloging. Their conclusions included the recommendation that more than 90 experts from all countries of Latin America and in all subject fields would be required to make the selection of titles from preliminary computer-produced selection lists and from their own preferences for some titles or editions over others. These conclusions on a mechanism to select the titles which should go into a list of books recommended for first purchase by university libraries of Latin America became known as "Project LILIBU," described later in detail. It was anticipated that the list would be kept up to date and would include complete cataloging information.

During the ten-year period of the Alliance the rapid development of technology in general and of electronic equipment for the storage, retrieval and communication of information, together with the accelerated increase in the production of knowledge and information, has created a crisis situation with respect to the economic and technological advance of Latin America where a basic problem derives from the lack of an institutional library development and where the oral tradition of instruction and rote-learning has not yet given way to the use of books and libraries. At the same time, not only were techniques being developed to utilize the new technologies and media in the communication and dissemination of information derived from recorded sources, but it became apparent that the development of networks of libraries, documentation centers and services, as well as of information systems would be required to utilize minimum bibliographic, human and financial resources for maximum benefit to potential consumers of information.

1968 to date. Regional Programs for Education, Scientific and Technological, and Cultural Development and Reorientation of OAS Activities toward Technical Assistance and Training

Creation of New Regional Programs and Their Priorities

In accordance with the resolutions of the Presidents meeting again in Punta del Este in 1967, planning was initiated by the OAS for new Regional Programs for the Educational and for Scientific and Technological Development to be financed by special funds contributed by Member states to a total of 25 million dollars a year. In the "cold gray dawn" of the Fifth Meeting of the Inter-American Cultural Council in Maracay, Venezuela in 1968 it became apparent that that sum was an over-optimistic amount and that 15 million was a more realistic figure on which to base new activities to strengthen institutions of Latin America to satisfy their own needs and assist other countries in these fields of endeavor. By a curious turn of events, the term "services of libraries, archives, and museums," contained in the preliminary draft of the final report of the Chiefs of State at Punta del Este, was reduced in the final version to read "extension services" and libraries seemed doomed to be bureaucratically forgotten in the new regional programs. The educators recovered the ball, however, at the meeting in Maracay and decided to include the development of school and university libraries as a part of their priority activities. (CIC/22/68) The scientists considered it necessary to include some activities in the realm of scientific information. The Council, too, recommended that a new Regional Program of Cultural Development should be begun, but with funds from the Regular Budget and from other voluntary sources. (CIC-23/68) Such a program was expected to amplify the Secretariat resources to facilitate the resolution of the innumerable problems common to all libraries, and to begin an archival development program.

A group of experts contracted to advise on the administrative aspects of the General Secretariat in anticipation of the coming of a new Secretary General recommended the separation of the two library functions of the organization, the transfer of the Columbus Memorial Library to another department, and the continuance of the Library Development Program in the Department of Cultural Affairs as one of its Technical Units. This was achieved in early 1969.

Responsibilities Assigned to the Library Development Program

The general orientation of the Regional Programs in education and in science and technology had been determined by the close of the Sixth Meeting of the Cultural Council in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, in 1969. In addition to asking the Library Development Program to plan a program for school and university libraries as part of the educational program, the Council recommended that a study of cultural activities be undertaken by the Committee for Cultural Action and especially of the Library Development Program as it related to the new Regional Programs (CIC-26/69) Libraries and archives were defined by the Trinidad meeting as one of the "instruments of culture" which should receive technical assistance, and the objectives of the Library Development Program were described as thus: 1) to contribute to the improvement of library services in the member states; 2) to extend the benefits of technical assistance to national archives; 3) to contribute to improve conditions in the exchange of, trade in, and distribution of books; and 4) to cooperate in the formation and issuance of American bibliographical information.

Activities ascribed to the Library Development Program in Trinidad were expressed in the following general terms: 1) to cooperate with member states in national planning of libraries and archives, as well as in the organization and operation of all kinds of libraries and their extension services; 2) to promote the training and advanced education of personnel for libraries and archives; 3) to sponsor and hold technical meetings and specialized seminars; 4) to study the possibility of establishing an Inter-American Institute of Bibliography; 5) to publish technical texts and manuals; and 6) to promote on an urgent basis, the adoption of adequate laws and administrative measures which will facilitate the widest distribution of books.

Archives

Although the improvement of Latin American archives has played a secondary role in the Library Development Program the problem has received some attention chiefly through participation in national and international conferences of archivists, in efforts to form consortia for microfilming important archives, and in providing technical support to the development and pursuit of the agreement between the OAS and the government of Spain in relation to the Archives of the Indies. The Inter-American Cultural Council at Maracay gave support to a program aimed at collaboration in the completion of the cataloging of the Archives and the publication of the catalog, as well as for training at the Archives of specialists in historical sources research. (CIC-20/68.) Draft proposals have been prepared concerning financial support for the extension of the Library Development Program into an active program of archival development, as an integral part of the expanded Regional Program for Cultural Development.

Reorientation of OAS Activities

Concurrent with the planning for the new Regional Programs came the proposal of the new Secretary General for a reorientation of the activities of the General Secretariat to give emphasis to technical assistance and training programs in line with the requests from Member states in order to strengthen the institutions of Latin America and for a new program-budgeting procedure which would be based on the selection of sixteen "areas of concentration" for the major portion of the activities of the OAS.

The new program-budgeting procedure, based on a concept of biennial budgets and a six-year work program, required an analysis of the library situation in Latin America, together with the development of a new statement of objectives of the program, the program strategy and tactics to be used in carrying it out, and other matters related to a revised program which will be described in a later chapter.

The activities considered necessary to effect an adequate improvement in library services, even with emphasis on school and university libraries alone, would have cost a sum of money far above that to be made available to the areas of concentration. It was necessary to reduce the number of activities or projects to two related to training and to national planning of library services, and subsequent budget cuts brought these two to a minimum operational level for the first biennium ending in July 1972.

Scientific Documentation

The indivisible characteristic of libraries into stratified categories of education, science, and culture was further evident in the request of the Department of Scientific Affairs for assistance from the Library Development Program in the organization for them in February, 1970, of a meeting of experts in scientific documentation as a means of rendering technical assistance to Colombia in drafting a new national scientific information system, and in participating in another subsequent meeting of experts together with the OAS Science Information Officer on the activities of the new Regional Program for Scientific and Technological Development in the area of science information, especially with relationship to scientific journals.

1970 to date Library Automation and Technology Transfer

The recommendations of the "Consensus of Viña del Mar" and the financing offered by the United States Delegation for a training program at different levels and to provide other funds for approved projects in the field of technology transfer were studied and resolutions were approved to take advantage of the offer by the Special Meeting of CIECC in April 1970.

A joint memorandum on training needs for information for technological transfer was prepared by the Library Development Program and the Unit of Information and Publications of the Department of Scientific Affairs proposing that a training program should include opportunities for advanced academic study as well as for professional study in the United States, and the dispatch of North American experts to Latin America to assist in training programs. On the basis of experience obtained in a first Seminar for Policy Makers/Prime Movers, carried out under the new Technical Information Diffusion Systems Program of the OAS, with program management by Battelle Memorial Institute, and given in January 1971, a second seminar for policy makers/prime movers is being planned together with a more comprehensive program for training at other levels, including that of the librarian and information specialist. The Library Development Program is collaborating in the development of the plan.

II. The Inter-American Program for the Development of Libraries, Bibliography, and Archives

The Inter-American Program for the Development of Libraries, Bibliography, and Archives is based principally on the resolutions approved by the Inter-American Cultural Council in 1968 (CIC-22/68) and on the CIC resolution of 1969 (CIC-26/69) which sets forth the principal objectives and fields of activities, together with subsequent reorientation of all OAS activities and program-budget preparation and acceptance.

OAS activities in this field can be said to be divided into three parts: 1) activities of benefit to libraries and archives in general in Latin America, in support of Latin American area studies programs in the United States, and for world scholarship with respect to information on and publications from Latin America; 2) activities related specifically to improving and extending school and university libraries; and 3) activities in support of scientific and technological research and information services required for technological transfer in Latin America.

Objectives

The objectives of the Program are of three types: long-range, middle-range, and short-range. They may be expressed as follows in theoretical as well as practical terms:

1. Long-range objectives: To develop the institutional bibliographic and service infrastructure necessary to make information easily available to any individual or grouping of individuals at any level of society and at all levels of human activity in accordance with their interests or needs and at their level of intellectual absorption; to provide the key to open the vast reservoir of human knowledge, scientific and technological accomplishment, and culture; and to preserve individual and national cultural patrimony in recorded form and at the same time to contribute to the integration of cultural values and traditions and disseminate it to other areas of the world.

2. Middle-range objectives: To create the national organizational structure and institutional infrastructure for access by the citizenry of the country to information needed for personal development and in accordance with the nation's best interests and capacity; to create similar capacity for specialized purposes at the regional and international level; and in consideration of the potential of the book and the library as technological media, to contribute to the transfer and adaptation of techniques and technologies found useful elsewhere to Latin America in accordance with its own potential and reality.

3. Short-term objectives: To develop national and regional networks or systems of libraries and documentation centers, integrated and unified preferably and parallel at least, and to create the necessary centralized services common to all yet compatible with those used in the rest of the world, through application and experimentation, and in order to fulfill these objectives, to raise the intellectual and academic level of training of librarians, documentalists, bibliographers, and information specialists and to provide for the training of the human resources required at all levels of library development and for specialized types of library work.

Operating Objectives

In addition to the improvement and extension of the training of library personnel which is first priority for activities and funds, the second objective is that of achieving unified national planning on the part of member states for all types of library and documentation services, with special emphasis on school and university library systems and with national systems of scientific documentation services, in accordance with the priorities of the new Regional Programs. Related to the development of national plans and programs are the creation and maintenance of networks of school, public, and university libraries based on centralized university library administration, and of national documentation services, as well as the centralization of processing and of national and specialized bibliographic services required to support the national programs. The application of uniform practices and modern technological advances is an objective required for the development of national plans and programs. A final objective is for an increase in the production and improved distribution of all kinds of books and the removal of the barriers to the free flow of publications.

The guiding principle behind these objectives is the belief first, that the library as a storehouse of human knowledge is the most efficient and economical means of providing ready access to knowledge and information in recorded form, systematically organized for use with the application of the advanced techniques and technologies, and second, that knowledge in printed form must be available and used for educational purposes and that information must be available and applied for developmental purposes.

Program Strategy

Inasmuch as the development of institutional library services has been seriously neglected up to the present time in Latin America and books and libraries are only now being recognized as essential elements in the educational process, maximum technical assistance and advice must be given to Member states to achieve adequate library services through national planning and programming for the maintenance of libraries and archives; that for the maximum use of minimum human, bibliographic and financial resources, assistance must be given for the centralization of such services as the cataloging of books and printing of cards for all libraries and for the maintenance of national bibliographic services; and maximum impact must be sought at the same time in basic services useful to all and to individual libraries for their own internal organization.

Because the scope of library needs is so vast and complex, the focus of the program must be on activities which are of maximum benefit to the largest number of libraries rather than on the specific needs of particular libraries.

The modernization of Latin American library organization and services must be accomplished quickly and by the most efficient and uniform methods possible. Emphasis must be placed on cooperative efforts and on national and regional networks or"systems" of libraries and documentation services. At the same time, regional capacity must be developed for certain kinds of services of multilateral benefit. The modernization of archives is needed not only to assure better facilities for historical research and scholarship, but for improved control of documents of government agencies in administrative archives.

Special attention must be given to achieving the following: a) national capacity for planning and maintaining effective library, bibliographic, and archival services; b) improved library coverage of Latin America for research in U. S. libraries; c) improved professional competence of librarians and information specialists through better schools and the advanced training of librarians and library school teachers; d) increased accessibility to and production of elementary reading materials in Spanish for the Spanish-speaking population of the United States, as well as for Latin America; e) increased flow of publications throughout the Hemisphere; f) improved access to bibliographical information on Latin American publications and on selected publications throughout the world.

Top priority is given to school and university library development as the basis for both educational and technological development, and to strengthen library support for other programs such as university development already under way. Attention at the national level is focussed on creating networks or "systems" of libraries as well as on the utilization of modern techniques and advanced communications technologies in accordance with international developments. National planning must perforce occupy a priority position in the program.

At the international level, in addition to uniform application of techniques and technologies, and to supporting services for libraries and library networks, and to stimulating the production of children's books and easy-to-read materials for adults with a minimum reading ability, the production of selection aids for the best use of funds for the most needed materials is stressed.

Training programs must be strengthened to provide the number of professional librarians required for national planning, for directing libraries and maintaining library and documentation services, for bibliographic compilation, and especially for the teaching of library science.

The planning and supervision of the whole program is carried out in the General Secretariat as functions of the Program for the Development of Libraries, Bibliography, and Archives, as a Technical Unit of the Department of Cultural Affairs. The technical assistance and training programs, which can be considered to be the field activities of the Program, are financed by the Regular funds, the special multinational funds of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture (FEMCIECC), and by occasional outside assistance.

Program Tactics

The means used for carrying out the Library Development Program are divided into those activities carried out at the General Secretariat and those carried out in the field. The General Secretariat has the structural basis and the lines of communication on which a more effective developmental program can be effected. For the satisfactory fulfillment of the objectives of the program, however, additional and more specialized staff is required to deal especially with the specific problems of university and special, school and public libraries, with library services to literacy and adult education programs, bibliography and the booktrade, archives, and library automation, especially in support of field programs.

Experts are contracted to provide technical assistance in the field at the request of member states, to serve as professors in training programs, and occasionally to conduct surveys and participate in meetings of experts for advisory purposes, with the principal focus on national planning for library and documentation services and on training personnel.

Based on a policy of assistance to strengthen national institutions through projects in selected areas of OAS programs and on that of leaving to the individual member state the determination of the assistance it wishes to receive from the OAS, upon request from the member state the OAS is prepared to offer assistance especially to the lesser developed countries, through the following activities: 1) technical assistance; 2) training; 3) technical meetings; 4) research, studies, and documentation; and in order to make these possible, 5) technical supervision for the technical assistance and training programs; and 6) planning and supervision of the activities and operations of each substantive area.

There are various instruments of Technical Cooperation to be used by the Library Development Program to carry out its objectives, as follows: 1) advisory services in the form of Direct Technical Assistance, General Technical Assistance, and Supporting Actions; 2) training services covering the regular OAS Fellowship Program, the Special Training Program (PEC) for short courses in countries outside the OAS (other training programs of the OAS in inter-American centers and special training do not presently apply to librarians); 3) combination of services (assistance, fellowships, equipment, etc.) in the Regional Programs and in Integrated Projects (PICOT); and 4) in other services.

Secretariat services are used in support of Technical Cooperation field activities, as well as in the maintenance of the following: 1) advisory services to governments, institutions and other agencies, through personal contacts, correspondence, participation in conferences and visits to member states, as well as in the supporting services required to send technical assistance missions upon the request of member states; 2) clearinghouse services for the collection and dissemination of information of importance to library development; 3) activities related to improving basic training facilities in Latin America and increased opportunities for advanced graduate-level training both in Latin America and elsewhere; 4) the organization of and participation in technical meetings and training seminars, with a considerable amount of time being devoted to the secretariat services for the Seminars on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials now being held in alternate years in Latin America; and 5) the systematic preparation and production of technical manuals and informational publications for the internal organization of libraries and the teaching of library science as well as for the external organization of systems and networks of library and documentation service.

The Library Development Program, furthermore, serves a catalytic function for various purposes and through the following special projects of short and long-term duration with other agencies which will be described in greater detail in Part C: 1) Books for the People Fund, Inc., Project LEER and Project ERMLA to stimulate the production, distribution, and use of elementary reading materials for children and adults in Spanish and Portuguese; 2) Project LILIBU, a project still in proposal form for the selection of a list of books for Latin American university libraries; and 3) the Pilot Bibliographic Center for the Caribbean.

III. OAS Library Projects in Progress

Within the Regional Program for Educational Development as part of the Regional Program for School and University Library Development, one multinational project for library science training and one supporting action in national library planning for school libraries are in progress. Regular Technical Cooperation funds are being employed for other national and institutional projects in the library field, as described below, and fellowships are being used for advanced training.

The Professional Preparation of Librarians: Multinational Project at the Inter-American Library School

Beginning in January 1971 funds from FEMCIECC have been provided for support of the Inter-American Library School of the University of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia, principally through technical assistance in the form of four professors and through eight scholarships each semester for advanced courses for university librarians and school librarians. These one-semester courses, aimed especially at a reorientation of the thoughts of practicing librarians away from the internal organization of librarians and toward the creation of networks and the maintenance of centralized supporting services, are offered in addition to the two-year professional courses of the school ending with the Licenciatura en Bibliotecología. The advanced course in university libraries is given the first semester of the calendar year, and the one on school libraries the second semester. From other grants and contracts, the School provides short courses in such specializations as medical libraries.

As part of the Advanced Course on University Libraries, a Seminar on Advanced Studies in Library Automation and the Concept of Systems has been planned for June and July 1971, to bring together world leaders in technological advances related to libraries with those Latin American university librarians and library school teachers giving courses on the subject in their schools, and to provide the means of offering a one-week seminar on the subject for the participants in the advanced course and the regular course in Medellín.

Priority is being given also to graduate level fellowships for the Colombian teachers at Medellín to improve their capacity for maintaining the Inter-American Library School.

Assistance to the Government of Peru for the Creation of a National System of Regional Educational Libraries: Supporting Action Project

At the request of the Government of Peru, plans are being made for technical assistance, training programs, and funds for the purchase of equipment and books for the creation of a national system of "regional educational libraries" to give services both to teachers and students. Short-term contracts for two advisors are being negotiated, two advanced fellowships are being provided and collections of materials will be selected in the first phase of the project.

Fellowships for Graduate Study of Library and Information Science

From six to eight fellowships are now being awarded annually from the regular OAS Fellowship Program for graduate study of library and information science, with emphasis given to those candidates who are teaching library

science or who are or will be in charge of national programs of networks for school and university libraries.

PEC -- Travel Grants

Planning is being made for training programs through short courses in Europe in the Special Training Program (PEC) in related areas such as archives, restoration and preservation of documents, booktrade techniques, and documentation for travel grants in future years.

Training of Information Scientists for Colombia

In the development of its national science documentation system, Colombia has asked for fellowships from the OAS to permit the training of six to eight graduate engineers and economists in a special two-year graduate-level course on library and information science, which will also permit the observation of regional bibliographical centers and services and of outstanding science information systems.

The Library Development Program is cooperating in planning the work-study-observation program with a university school of library and information science in the United States to train the people who will be responsible for setting up an automated science information system for Colombia, also mentioned later.

Technical Assistance to Colombia for the Development of a Unified National Plan for Library and Documentation Services

At the request of the Government of Colombia the OAS is providing technical assistance from the Technical Cooperation program in the over-all national planning of library services. This technical assistance given in the nature of utilizing Colombia as a pilot country in over all national planning has taken various forms in 1969 and 1970; for example: 1) participation in national meetings of librarians as well as with the directors of decentralized institutes of the Ministry of Education responsible for various aspects of library and science information services; 2) the organization by the OAS of a meeting of international experts on science documentation together with Colombian librarians and scientists to advise on the orientation which a national system of science documentation might take; 3) the dispatch of a 3-man technical assistance mission to Colombia for a month in 1970 to advise on the first steps to be taken in over all national planning, and its collaboration with another Colombian study group and fourth expert in automation and science information systems to incorporate this system, which will be based chiefly on existing university and special libraries, into the overall plan; 4) the evaluation of the reports made by these two groups and other national reports on special aspects of library development in Colombia which were completed in 1970; and 5) participation in a meeting with Colombian librarians and authorities on procedures to develop national union catalogs of books and periodicals. In 1971 advice was provided on the nature of the mission in the anticipated return of the technical assistance mission of four in 1971, to advise on the second and subsequent steps to be taken by Colombia in the process of developing a unified national program.

Technical Assistance to the Dominican Republic in the Development of a National Library Service

At the request of the Dominican Republic a one-man technical assistance mission has been sent to that country to advise and initiate the first steps in the development of a national library service based on the newly created National Library, whose new building was inaugurated in February 1971.

Sub-Professional Training of University Librarians for Honduras

Honduras in its Plan Nacional de Cooperación Técnica for 1970/71 requested assistance in the training of the sub-professional library staff for its university and requested the participation of an OAS expert in a meeting to draft the plan for development of University library services for 1971/75. A member of the staff of the Library Development Program, after a positive evaluation of the proposal, took part in the meeting in late 1970 in Tegucigalpa. As a result, five Honduran students are now enrolled in a special course for university library assistants being given this semester at the Inter-American Library School in Medellín, Colombia.

Technical Assistance to the Universidad Centroamericana in Managua

In 1970 Nicaragua requested technical assistance to the Universidad Centroamericana, as a part of its Plan Nacional de Cooperación Técnica. A staff member from the Library Development Program went to Nicaragua in late 1970 to review the situation, and in accordance with her recommendation, a one-man technical assistance mission has been sent to assist in the development of this university library. A previous technical assistance mission assisted in the centralization of the libraries of the National University at its Managua campus.

Other Requests Pending for Technical Assistance in Library Development

A number of additional requests are pending, some awaiting a detailed project proposal, others, the transmission trough official channels now required. Some deal with the reorganization of a library or documentation center of a ministry, assistance to a national library, the development of national and regional centralized processing services, the procurement of scientific periodicals, and the creation of an official printing office and press.

Advisory Services to Other OAS Programs and Other International Library Programs

The Library Development Program continues to be represented on the advisory board of the library development program of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and to advise the Pan American Health Organization in its library programs. Plans for the creation or redevelopment of specialized documentation centers for housing and on the problems of women are being drafted by offices of the General Secretariat with advice and assistance from the Library Development Program at present. Collaboration continues with the Department of Scientific and Technological Affairs in the development of programs for the training of special librarians and of information specialists especially for technology transfer.

Technical Meetings (SALALM)

The Library Development Program, in serving as Executive Secretariat for the Seminars on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials, is engaged at present in planning and organizing the Sixteenth annual meeting of SALALM to be held in Puebla, Mexico, and the preparation of the annual Progress Report of the Secretary which will form part of the dozen or so working papers for the meeting. It is anticipated that 200 or more will be in attendance including librarians, university professors, bibliographers, representatives of the inter-American booktrade and of commercial concerns engaged in microform of published reproduction of important Latin American works.

Research, Studies, and Investigation

In press at present are Spanish editions of invaluable tools for the internal organization of library, the new cataloging code and filing rules. A contract is soon anticipated with the nonprofit organization which maintains up-to-date the editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification for its adaptation and translation into Spanish.

Plans are being made for a team-survey of the classification systems used by Latin American libraries and an evaluation of their adaptability to Latin American needs, during 1971/72.

Archives of the Indies as an Integrated Project

The nature of the activities related to putting into effect the agreement between the OAS and the Government of Spain for the completion of the cataloging and for the publication of the catalog of the Archive of the Indies lead to their consideration as a special integrated project of the Program for the Development of Libraries, Bibliography, and Archives. Such activities cover meetings of experts, studies, evaluation of reports, and conversations with government officials, experts in archives and their microfilming and automation, and with representatives of the private sector interested in participating in the project with special financing or as contractees for one aspect or another.

PART C. BOOK PROGRAMS AND THE PRODUCTION OF SELECTION AIDS FOR LIBRARY MATERIALS

I. The Books for the People Fund, Inc., and Project LEER

The "Books for the People Fund," Inc., a private non-profit organization, was created in 1961 under the auspices of the OAS for the purpose of obtaining funds to finance the various projects necessary for complementing the effort to raise the educational and cultural levels of a great number of the Latin American people, and to help their economic and social progress, as well as their scientific and technical development. It was created with the idea of stimulating the production and distribution of a large number of books, in Spanish and other languages spoken in the American continent, for children, youth and new adult literates; and to facilitate the cooperation and aid to this end of citizens, publishing houses, business groups, foundations, and government and international agencies in the American nations. The creation of the Fund is in accord with the convictions of both the citizens of Latin America and the United States of the great scarcity of easy-to-read materials.

Educational Aims

The specific aims of the FUND may be described in the following way:

1) To advance the campaign against illiteracy in Latin America, stimulating the production and distribution of the best and most modern books and educational materials appropriate for children, young people, and new adult literates in their own languages both in a) mass-produced, low-cost paper-back editions and b) hard-cover editions of the same books for libraries and other permanent uses; 2) The publication and mass-distribution of the pamphlets of the "Biblioteca Popular Latinoamericana" produced by the OAS; 3) To provide the means whereby the children of Latin America can take advantage of the education and higher, more specialized training offered, by aiding their access to sources of written knowledge and information during their formative years and thus encouraging life-long reading habits; 4) To contribute to the intellectual, economic, scientific and social development of the Latin American countries by broadening the educational base and horizons of their citizens; 5) To encourage the development of school libraries and services to children and young people in public libraries; 6) To promote the creation of children's literature by Latin American authors who would interpret the lives of their countries to their own children and to those of other countries; 7) To contribute to the development of the Latin American economy, especially by means of the book trade which will help to open up a potential market of great proportions; 8) To collaborate in carrying out basic studies on the problem of illiteracy in Latin America, the technique of writing on an elementary level, and the factors to be considered in evaluating the educational and recreational materials on different levels.

The main aim of the program of the Fund, in providing low-cost books of an educational, informative, and recreational nature in the languages of the Latin American countries, is that of education. The sponsors of the Fund believe that the campaign against illiteracy will be won only with books that can be read by the people. It is the aim of the Fund to stimulate only the production of books that are well written and illustrated, books that will broaden the horizons of their readers and stimulate their imaginations.

Organization of Books for the People Fund, Inc.

The Fund has been organized for operational purposes with the advisory and evaluation assistance of educational experts and with the collaboration of the Organization of American States. An international board of directors, representing hemispheric, cultural, institutional and publishing interests governs the Fund.

In addition, the Fund has an honorary international board of sponsors composed of intellectual and political leaders of the hemisphere, who have themselves contributed to the world of books and learning. An international advisory council and advisory committees, composed of Latin American and North American experts and technicians, are called upon for such purposes as the selection of materials for translation and publication, relations with publishers, distribution through commercial and non-commercial channels, relations with governmental and educational authorities, use of materials in libraries, and for financial aid and special projects.

The Fund continues to cooperate closely with private organizations that are dedicated to the promotion of education, international and philanthropic groups, government branches and educational authorities of different countries, and professional associations and other groups that are concerned with raising the intellectual level of the Latin American people. Close ties of collaboration are also maintained with publishers of Latin America, the United States and Spain, and full advantage will be taken of the services and connections that are offered by the booktrade.

The Fund will receive donations to help carry out its functions, although it has not been possible to obtain steady financing from official or private sources.

Principal Operational Methods

With the help of the Fund's advisers, and based on preliminary lists, children's literature specialists selected the Latin American children's works most worthy of reprinting and also the titles recommended for translation into the languages of Latin America.* In the same way, works and topics were selected which contribute to the present educational programs and school curricula of Latin America.

It is hoped to obtain financing to promote the publication of the books selected, especially the pamphlets of the "Biblioteca Popular Latinoamericana", and efforts will be made to find new authors and unpublished works of Latin American authors. Agreements will be made with publishers and printers for the economical printing and reprinting of the books selected. The Fund will combine the technical knowledge of the publishers and the experience of librarians and educators of the more developed countries with the cultural and commercial

* "Books for the People" Fund, Inc. Listas de libros para niños y adultos recieñ alfabetizados recomendados para publicarse en español y portugués. Washington, D. C., Union Panamericana, 1967. (Cuadernos bibliotecológicos, no. 40)

resources of Latin America in order to encourage the maximum usage of the wealth of universal children's literature and to develop a Latin American literature for children, as well as pamphlets, newspapers and other printed material for adults.

In pursuing its educational objectives, the Fund will study new methods of distribution, aside from the regular book trade, as well as utilizing to the fullest extent present bookstore and newsstand facilities, in an attempt to reach as wide a segment of the population as possible and to serve the formal and informal educational centers of Latin America, as well as the education of the Spanish-speaking people of the United States.

Selection of Works

Various criteria will be employed in the selection of titles to be published by the program. Although many of the titles selected will complement the school curricula of the Latin American schools, others will be chosen to encourage reading for the mere enjoyment of reading. For these reasons the publication of books willbe encouraged for both the lower and higher grades as well as for new adult literates and these works will progressively treat the lives of the same persons. Some themes, such as those of dinosaurs; cowboys, inventions, time, and the sea will be treated in books of progressive difficulty with the idea of stimulating the continued reading of the same topic. Above all, books will be sought out which treat the natural, physical and social worlds that surround us - such as the rocks, sky, and sea - and the heroes and famous personalities of the past and present.

The international advisory committee on selection, composed of educators and librarians, will be supplemented by national commissions named to evaluate the children's books by national authors and to encourage the writing of new literature for children.

Printing and Publishing

Converstions held with representatives of the American Book Publishers Council, the Children's Book Council, the Mexican Book Institute, and with publishers of children's books in the United States, Puerto Rico and Mexico, lead the Fund sponsors to anticipate full cooperation in their programs of translation, production and distribution. Wherever possible, arrangements will be made with editors in the United States so that they will grant translation rights and supply color plates. For its own part, the Fund will supply the Spanish and Portuguese translations of the original works for their distribution by U. S. publishers.

Latin American publishers will be encouraged to issue inexpensive editions of the books which they have already printed for children. Efforts will also be made to encourage U. S. publishers who have produced books for children and young people in Spanish to issue low-cost editions of the same books for distribution under the Fund's program.

Distribution Program

The principal aim of the Books for the People Fund is to put the largest number of good books into the hands of the greatest number of Latin American children and young people, especially through the sale of the books, at a

minimum price. This latter goal is based on the view that there is a psychological danger in always donating without there existing some responsibility on the part of the recipient, and of the need to form in the mind of the child a sense of responsibility for his own well-being and betterment. On the other hand, donation programs of gifts and incentive prizes will be both encouraged and welcomed.

Financial Aid

The "Books for the People Fund," Inc. will be financed by donations from individuals and private organizations, philanthropic foundations and business concerns, and by government and inter-governmental sources so that expert advisers may be procured in order to assure a suitable central directorship which will formulate general policies and carry out the Fund's programs. Donations have been received from the Bro-Dart, Tinker, and Del Mar Foundations, as well as from the National Endowment for the Humanities and various members of the Council of the Americas to support the activities of the Fund.

Expansion of School and Popular Library Services

The scarcity of children's books in Spanish and even of textbooks for the elementary school level has made impossible a reliance upon books for teaching purposes or for supplementary reading on this level. There is also a lack of books for research and reference, and for the continuing educational process.

Working through the ministries of education, the private school authorities of Latin America, and the teachers' associations, the Fund hopes to obtain the cooperation of the teachers themselves for its various activities. Among these activities are its efforts to obtain the distribution of inexpensive editions of children's books in schools as well as in newsstands and bookstores.

As a result of its publishing and distribution activities, the Fund will try to promote the creation of services for children and young people in public and popular libraries, and to establish extension services to rural and newly literate areas using bookmobiles, package libraries, etc., which utilize the centralized collections. It is hoped that in collaboration with national and international organizations the Fund will be able to cooperate in the training of local teachers who will serve as teacher librarians in the school and community libraries.

Promotion of Writing and Use of Children's Books

The search for the best-qualified persons to translate the books selected by the Fund for publication will undoubtedly awaken greater interest in the writing of books for children.

As soon as it is possible, similar activities will be initiated to encourage new books for children, such as seminars or institutes on the techniques of writing and illustrating children's books, workshops on the organization of school and children's libraries, courses in children's literature and story-telling, and the creation of scholarships for Latin American authors to attend writers' institutes. Prizes for the best-written or illustrated children's books will be encouraged. If it is found to be convenient, efforts will be made to encourage the preparation of new textbooks and audiovisual materials for primary and secondary schools, and adult education programs, and to cooperate with other organizations interested in this work.

Projects of the Fund

In addition to Project LEER, which will be explained below in greater detail, the Fund has acquired a collection of textbooks and instruction materials in Spanish for elementary and secondary schools with the idea that these can serve not only to demonstrate the resources that exist and can be utilized by the Latin American countries, but also as a basis on which to formulate the evaluative norms for this type of material. In June, an inter-American meeting of experts is planned on the need for teaching and library materials in Spanish for Latin America and the United States. At this meeting tentative norms will be established for the evaluation of these materials and recommendations will be made on the kinds of new materials needed, for whom, and at what levels.

Another project being contemplated is the writing, publication, and distribution of easy-to-read books for the children, youth and adults of Latin America. The Secretary General of the OAS spoke last September before the Council of the Americas asking its members for financial aid for the project. As a result, sufficient funds have been received for a pilot program in one of the Latin American countries with the purpose of studying and trying to determine the type of material that needs to be published for the adults, in accord with their needs.

Project LEER(Libros Elementales, Educativos y Recreativos)

The first project of wide-reaching results of the "Books for the People Fund" - a project which has been continued throughout the past four years - has been Project LEER, created to meet the needs of the Spanish-speaking population of the United States in regard to basic cultural information.

In 1965 the U. S. government accepted the fact that there existed in her population a minority group whose first language was Spanish and not English and that the desire and right of this group to maintain its own language and culture was not only an inalienable right but also an advantage for the country. In addition, it was agreed to utilize the mother tongue to educate children and adults until they had learned English.

It has been estimated that the number of Spanish-speaking people in the United States is ten million, not including Puerto Rico. The educational level of this minority group varies widely, for as in some parts of the country it doesn't even reach fourth grade, in others it is eighth grade, while a highly professional class can be found throughout the country. A portion of this population speaks no English or speak it poorly; many speak Spanish but can't read it. All of these factors, therefore, point to the need to obtain materials in Spanish for these various levels, from the newly literates to the higher levels. Two events took place simultaneously: 1) The Federal government gave funds for the promotion of library services and the acquisition of materials in Spanish for this minority; 2) Bilingual education, after its success in Dade County, Florida with the Cubans, and in parts of the southwest, was approved by Congress and spread rapidly throughout the rest of the country. There are now over one hundred and thirty bilingual programssupported by Federal funds, in various parts of the country.

The need to acquire materials at all levels became indispensable. On the higher level, the problem was easily solved, as Spanish is one of the languages that has been taught as a second language in the U. S. and there existed, therefore, collections for this group, as well as the information available in Latin

America on this level. However, the material available on an elementary level presented a more serious problem mainly because there weren't any bibliographies that could be consulted but only fragmentary lists of children's books, the majority of which were out of print; and also because the reading level of the materials, especially the supplementary reading, was an area little-explored in the Spanish language, the hypothesis being accepted that once a person learns to read, he can read at any level. This theory has not only been proven false, but it has also been proven that if a newly-literate person is not given material that interests him and that is on a level he can master, he will stop reading and revert to illiteracy once again. Project LEER was born out of this necessity.

The Objective and Development of the Program:

The main objective of Project LEER is the selection of appropriate, easy-to-read materials in Spanish for children, young people and adults, materials which will also be adequate for public and school libraries in the U.S. Various characteristics, pointed out in the beginning, helped to determine the standards for the selection of the materials. The program was originally going to be directed to the Spanish-speaking population of the U. S., although it was hoped that the titles chosen would be accepted in Latin America, (especially the scientific material.) Knowledge of the educational levels, the particular interests, and the specific needs of the groups that speak Spanish-especially of the three most numerous groups: Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans and Cubans - was determined by means of questionnaires and visits to programs especially designed for the Spanish-speaking. Another factor that immediately took on great importance was the collection of books from which the selection was to be made. The budget of the project only covered the personnel costs of one professional and a secretary, and the publication costs of a bulletin. The book collection was built by directly contacting or writing to the publishing houses that could be found and the private groups and programs that published the necessary material. Therefore only those groups that wished to collaborate with the program by sending in the necessary materials were those that helped to form the collection of Project LEER. In making the selection, special importance was given to those factors that affect the reading level of a book: the vocabulary used, the number of words in a sentence, the organization and complexity of the ideas presented, the illustrations and paper used, the format, etc.- in short, all of those factors which, depending on the educational level to which the material is directed, take on a greater importance.

Three points became evident after the first two years:

1) No one library can engage itself in the selection of easy-to-read materials in Spanish for two practical reasons: a) there are no bibliographies of these materials that can guide the selection and the publishers have no clear concept of what constitutes an easy-to-read book -therefore their catalogues are not suitable for the selection; b) no single library has access to the evaluation collections nor to the ample collections in bookstores, and it would be very expensive to acquire all of those which would be of possible help. In addition, there is the need for a specialist in this field of the reading level in Spanish. The evidence of these facts is shown by the number of libraries and schools that have asked, at their own request, to receive the bulletin -about five thousand, the majority being located in the U. S., and others in Latin America and Europe.

2) Little attention has been paid to the production and publication in Spanish of books for children, young people, or for adults with a limited reading ability. One of the reasons, among others, is that publishing houses consider this market too limited for an economic gain. For this reason, almost all of the material published for new literates has been done by government agencies, philanthropic societies, or literacy programs. The almost total lack, up to now, of public and school libraries in Latin America has contributed to the scarcity in the production and distribution of children's books: for whereas more than 90% of the children's books in the U. S. are bought by libraries, this situation does not exist in Latin America.

3) Only a joint action can produce the information necessary for compiling the needs lists.

The Project LEER was organized with the provision that it would have three phases: 1) the acquisition of a broad collection, from which the most appropriate titles would be selected; 2) the evaluation of these works by experts in different areas and levels, with the aim of compiling a basic list; 3) the continuous acquisition of new materials and periodic revision of this list in order to keep it up-to-date.

Two factors modified these original plans: the need to publish immediate lists of "pre-selected" materials, based only on the minimum necessary requirements, so that the libraries which had received Federal aid could begin their program (six months after initiating the program, the first bulletin was published); and the lack of financial resources to contract the various specialists who were to compile the basic list, for which reason the latter could not be published.

The date, eight bulletins have been published, of which Nos. 6 and 7 were cumulative and contained all those titles which had appeared in previous bulletins. For practical reasons, only those titles are reported which are in a plentiful supply in the U. S. and in publishing houses.

With the publication of bulletin No. 8, Project LEER was raised to the senior high school level, thereby representing a good part of the Latin American literature. The next bulletin will come out this July, and plans for the new issues of 1971-72 call for greater emphasis on audiovisual materials.

Project LEER in Latin America

From the beginning, this program, aimed primarily for the United States, has received many requests from Latin America not only for copies of the bulletin but also to point out the need for a similar program among the Latin American nations, which would take into account the distinctive needs of their peoples.

At the present time there is a movement toward American integration in which the Latin American countries meet and sign regional pacts promising to help each other raise the economic, social and educational levels of their people. The recently-signed "Andrés Bello" agreement for the educational, scientific and cultural integration of the countries of the Andean region plans to bring

about a series of programs and study plans on a regional level. One of these plans calls for the possible writing of common texts, in certain subjects, for elementary schools and for the mass production of textbooks. If it is possible to collaborate on a regional level for textbooks, a basis to be used for the formation and education of the people of a region, it is even more feasible to collaborate on a continental level for the compilation of lists of the complementary materials that are needed for basic education. This is also the only means of assuring that the people will have access to all of the different ideological currents.

In order for Project LEER to be operative in Latin America, an international advisory committee must be formed to set up the guidelines to be followed and the goals to be pursued.

With the cooperation of all the countries, a complete collection of printing and audiovisual materials would be made and a group of Latin American specialists on different topics, levels and materials would evaluate this collection with the idea of compiling a basic list from which each library could select those titles which best met their particular needs.

This list would be arranged according to subject matter, with author and title indexes. Included would be the descriptive cataloging and classification of each title, following the best-known systems of Latin America, thus assuring that the libraries would have only to include this information in their catalogs without having to catalog and classify each book themselves. The recommended reading level would be attached to each title.

Periodic lists would be published to keep the basic list up-to-date and this latter list could be revised from time to time in order to replace the out-of-print titles with more modern and appropriate ones.

In recent times the library has been recognized not only as the storehouse of our cultures and histories, but also as an essential part of education on all levels. All of the Latin American countries are developing this area according to their possibilities and the OAS has given it special attention. The basic collection of a library is the foundation stone upon which rest all its other services.

II. A selected list of books for Latin American university libraries: A proposal for Project "LILIBU"

In approving acceptance of Document 9 entitled "Culture in Relation to Development" (La Cultura en Función del Desarrollo), the Inter-American Cultural Council in its Maracay meeting in 1968 gave approval to the proposal for carrying out the selection and compilation of a list of books and journals which would help universities in selecting materials and improving the collections of university libraries (CIC-22/68).

The critical need for some recourse to authoritatively compiled selection lists of books and periodicals for the top-priority purchase of materials for university libraries became increasingly apparent as bank loans became available for university development purposes during the last decade. The need for a centralized cataloging service which could be a product of such a project was also recognized. University librarians seeking assistance repeatedly

requested that the OAS undetake to compile such a list, and to seek the means of maintaining a regular alerting service to new works they should have.

With funds from the Council of Library Resources, Inc., the OAS sponsored a meeting of consultation held in Mexico in 1966 consisting of six experts in the selection of library materials for university libraries and specialists in the compilation of bibliographies and library catalogs. The conclusions, relating to the scope of the list, the basis for selection and the contracting of subject specialists and librarians to select the most important titles in each field, the working procedure, and the anticipated results were published by the Library Development Program in 1966, as "A Selected List of Books for Latin American University Libraries: Proposal for its Compilation" Cuadernos bibliotecológicos no. 38. 1966.

University rectors consulted as to whether or not they would utilize the list and be inclined to budget regularly an amount equal to 5% of the university's annual budget for library services if they had recourse to a regular listing of new titles recommended by subject experts were virtually unanimous in saying that it was needed and would be used.

The Executive Board of the Union de Universidades de América Latina studied the proposal and unanimously agreed to sponsor it as a project of the executive secretariat in Mexico if funds for the compilation of the basic list could be found. Subsequently the Government of Colombia requested that the list be compiled in Colombia as an integral part of its national library planning and as part of technical assistance of the OAS in its Programa Nacional de Cooperación Técnica.

In 1966 it was calculated that the total cost of the selection, compilation and computer-based publication of the list would be approximately $200,000. The Council on Library Resources, Inc., at that time was willing to provide $50,000 to initiate the first phase, which would be that of programming the project, purchasing the electronic equipment necessary, and the selection, compilation, and publication of the first-priority items of a reference nature. Although approved as a special project of the Regional Program for School and University Libraries in a preliminary program-budget for the 6-year period 1970-76, the project was eliminated in order to introduce other programs into programs supported by FEMCIECC funds.

Other efforts made to secure funding from foundations and other governmental sources have been unsuccessful.

Fundamental in the planning of the proposal was the means of obtaining from each of the countries of Latin America lists of books and periodicals they consider to be indispensable as representative of the works published by each country. In the specialized fields, on the basis of these lists and other specialized lists, a computer tape would be made of the titles recommended. A preliminary list would then be produced by computer and sent to approximately 90 subject specialists in Latin America for their review. A selection team would then meet to study the recommendations of the specialists and resolve any problems which might arise with respect to the selection of titles in Spanish and/or other languages required for university study and research, and when decisions would have to be made between differing editions of the same work, or between differing works in the same field.

The original plan was for a listing of approximately 60,000 titles of the world's best production of books and journals in all fields of knowledge of particular need in university libraries of Latin America. At the same time it could be useful in the selection of materials for other libraries of a general nature, and as a yardstick for evaluating the quality of existing collections.

III. Promotion of regional bibliographic institutes and computer compilation of bibliography

The more adequate bibliographic control of the books and other publications emanating from and about Latin America has long been recognized as a serious need not only for the improvement of the booktrade but for libraries and scholarship in general. As long ago as 1933 a special committee named by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union reported to it its recommendations on the creation of an Inter-American Bibliographical Center as a function of the Columbus Memorial Library. Although funds were never provided for the purpose, the Library in ensuing years did publish a regular listing of its new acquisitions, as well as the "Bibliographic Series," now numbering 51, which includes specialized bibliographies as well as directories and other works useful for library and booktrade development.

Despite the limited amount of time which can be devoted by the staff of the Library Development Program to resolving problems of the booktrade and of bibliography which affect directly the development of libraries, much has been accomplished through the cooperative efforts of experts who participate in the Seminars on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials.

The SALALM Committee on Bibliography in 1961 held a special meeting to discuss practical means of breaking the deadlock and resolving the knotty problems of incomplete bibliographic coverage, duplication of effort, and noncurrency of information on new publications which libraries might require. From its deliberations came the recommendation for the creation of a Pilot Center for Bibliographic Information for the Caribbean and subsequent conversation with authorities in Puerto Rico for its location there.

The Library Development Program participated actively in the steps which led to the creation of a Pilot Center in the Caribbean Regional Library at CODECA in Puerto Rico, and in the procurement of equipment and the provision of photocopying services for printed materials on the Caribbean. Restricted by a bare minimum budget, the programming and publication of the annual Current Caribbean Bibliography with bibliographic information supplied cooperatively by librarians from the islands and mainland countries of the Caribbean, and the compilation and publication of the bibliography executed by computer, is an accomplishment of great significance and attests to the ability of Latin American librarians, with technical assistance from experts, to move into the technological age. The CCB for 1969 has been published, and that for 1968 is in press. Earlier annual compilations will come off the press in rapid succession to bring up to date the bibliography whose last printed volume was volume 15, for 1965.

Through the development of the steps involved in the creation of the Pilot Center and the publication of the computer-based bibliography, the OAS assisted in attempting, although unsuccessfully, to obtain more adequate financing so that the work could be accomplished more quickly. It was necessary to utilize the computer programs developed by the Library of Congress

for materials in English to record works in the four languages of the Caribbean - to our knowledge the first time this has been done.

However, efforts must be made to obtain financing to continue the computer compilation of the annual bibliography and of the other services.

In addition to the desire of the Library Development Program to experiment in a pilot center with the training of personnel and the programming necessary to utilize current technological techniques and equipment, it was anticipated that the techniques and programs developed by the pilot center might be utilized in the creation of other regional bibliographic centers or for the extension of existing national bibliographic programs to serve the purposes of a regional center. A recommendation of SALALM was to suggest to the National Bibliographic Institute of Mexico, which functions in the National Library, that it consider computer-based compilation as well as the inclusion of bibliographic information from its neighboring Central American states.

The provision of cataloging information in the printed bibliographies will relieve libraries of Latin America of the task of doing original cataloging of new titles from the countries covered by the printed bibliographies and/or aid in the services which might be provided by centralized cataloging centers. The capacity of the computer tape is such that copies of the tapes could be used in other regional and national centers and printed cards made directly from the tapes. The next large step in the Pilot Center is that of developing the program which will print out cards from the tapes.

It is furthermore hoped that the bibliographical services of the Pilot Center can be made self-sustaining by developing the programs which can provide specialized bibliographies from the computer tapes on a cost plus basis and provide other bibliographic services essential to an improvement of libraries and booktrade in the American Republics.

APPENDIX A

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT
IN WHICH THE OAS HAS PARTICIPATED

1889-90 First International Conference of American States, Washington. It is resolved to establish in Washington a Latin-American Memorial Library (Columbus Memorial Library)

1901-02 Second International Conference of American States, Mexico City. Convention on the exchange of official, scientific, literary and industrial publications.

1910 Fourth International Conference of American States, Buenos Aires. Recommends the establishment of National Bibliographical Offices, in those countries in which these do not as yet exist.

1928 Sixth International Conference of American States, Havana. Agrees on revisions to the Convention of Buenos Aires; to promote a meeting of a Pan-American Committee of Bibliographers; to establish an Inter-American Institute of Intellectual Cooperation.

1930 Publication of the first number of "Bibliographic Series" of the Columbus Memorial Library, which will issue up to 51 numbers of bibliographies, directories, etc.

1933 Seventh International Conference of American States, Montevideo. Inter-American copyright protection; compilation of an American bibliography.

1936 Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace, Buenos Aires. Convention on interchange of publications; establishment of special American libraries (periodicals and newspapers); American bibliographical exchange.

Report submitted to the Council on the establishment of a Center of Inter-American Bibliography at the Columbus Memorial Library (it was not funded)

1938 Eighth International Conference of American States, Lima. Promotion of interchanges between libraries.

1940 Report of Charles E. Babcock on the 50th anniversary of the Columbus Memorial Library (1890-1940).

1947 First Assembly of Librarians of the Americas, Washington. The Pan American Union collaborated in its planning.

1950 Technical Assistance to the Scientific Exchange Service of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, Costa Rica, and the development of agricultural libraries.

1951 First Meeting of the Inter-American Cultural Council, Mexico. Recommends a Program for the Encouragement of Libraries and Bibliography, including a guide for exchanges, preparation of manuals, training of librarians, library policy and circulation of books.

Conference on the Development of Public Library Services in Latin America, São Paulo (organized by Unesco with the financial cooperation of the Pan American Union).

1952 Technical Assistance Mission to Inter-American Housing Center to organize its Scientific Exchange Service.

1953 First Technical Meeting of Agricultural Librarians of Latin America, Turrialba, Costa Rica.
Establishes the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians.

1954 Tenth Inter-American Conference, Caracas.
In its Declaration on Cultural Cooperation, it recommends increase of libraries, expansion of their services, basic and advanced training for librarians, development of bibliography and of uniform bibliographic standards.

1955 Publication of Sistema de clasificación decimal de Melvil Dewey by Forest Press, Inc., translated by the Pan American Union. An essential tool for the classification of library collections, first edition in Spanish.

Publication of first issue of the quarterly newsletter Inter-American Library Relations. A Spanish version appears as appendix of List of Books Accessioned ... of the Columbus Memorial Library until 1963, when publication of Noticiero Bibliotecario Interamericano begins.

1956 Second Meeting of the Inter-American Cultural Council, Lima.
Its Program of Cultural Action includes the eradication of illiteracy, dissemination and free circulation of books, increase of libraries, basic and advanced training for librarians, development of bibliography, etc. Convention on the Exchange of Publications. Promotion of children's literature.

Meeting at the University of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia, to establish the Inter-American Library School.

First Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) Brooksville, Florida. The Seminars have been held every year since 1956.

1958 Publication of Estudios y conocimientos en acción, a report on what Latin America needs in the field of libraries (Estudios bibliotecarios, no. 1)

1959 Third Meeting of the Inter-American Cultural Council, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Its Rec. XXIV: Library and Bibliographic Development Program of the Pan American Union, includes activities of a general nature, information and promotional activities, professional training of librarians and bibliographers, publication of manuals and technical aids, development of bibliography and uniform bibliographic standards, free circulation of printed works and stimulation of the book trade, international exchange of publications.

Publication of Guía de escuelas y cursos de bibliotecología en América Latina in the "Bibliographic Series"

Study of the barriers to the book trade in Latin America, prepared for the 11th Inter-American Conference by the American Book Publishers' Council with a grant from the Council on Library Resources, Inc., and the OAS.

1960 Draft of a ten-year plan for the development of libraries, to be carried out by the Library Development Program of the OAS.

Publication of Bibliografía bibliotecológica (Bibliographic Series), a basic list for library schools in Latin America.

Publication of the first number of "Cuadernos bibliotecológicos," short pamphlets on specialized subjects.

1961 Special Meeting of Inter-American Economic and Social Council at the Ministerial Level, Punta del Este.
Charter of Punta del Este establishing the Alliance for Progress.
Ten-Year Education Program, including Res. A.2.h on development of public and school libraries as one of the most effective means of supplementing and strengthening education and of enriching and disseminating knowledge of the artistic and cultural heritage.

Inter-American Seminar on University Libraries, Monticello, Ill., organized by the Council on Higher Education in the American Republics with the cooperation of the Library Development Program.

Publication of the first "Manual del bibliotecario," La selección y adquisición de libros. This is a series of textbooks for library schools and manuals of permanent value for the internal organization of libraries.

Creation of the Books for the People Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization to promote mass production of easy-to-read books for children, youth, and adult new literates in Latin America.

First Inter-American Meeting on Archives, Washington.
Res. 15, recommending that the Alliance for Progress or other programs provide aid to national archives. Asks that the OAS establish an Inter-American Center for Documentary Information. Res. 22 creating the Inter-American Technical Council for Archives (CITA)

1962 First Meeting of the OAS Task Force to Promote Programming and Development of Education, Science and Culture in Latin America, Washington.
Projects for Immediate Action: 16 - Public and school libraries.-
19 - Production of low-cost books.

Meeting of experts in library planning, Miami Beach.

Regional Seminar on the Development of University Libraries in Latin America, Mendoza, Argentina (organized by Unesco)

Publication of Métodos de investigación, to help university research, in the series "Manuales del bibliotecario".

1963 First special course for medical librarians at the Inter-American Library School, with fellowships granted by the Pan American Health Organization.

Publication of La biblioteca universitaria, by Wilson and Tauber, in the series "Manuales del bibliotecario".

Publication of Guía de bibliotecas de la América Latina in "Bibliographic Series"

Publication of Public and School Libraries in Latin America in the series "Estudios bibliotecarios"

1963-65 "Mesas de estudio" on Education for Librarianship and In-Service Training of Librarians in Latin America, Medellín, Inter-American Library School, with funds from Rockefeller Foundation. Exhaustive study on education for librarianship and its needs.

1964 The Council on Library Resources, Inc., gives a $25,000 grant to the OAS to contribute to the compilation and publication of the Lista de encabezamientos de materia para bibliotecas (subject heading list).

1965 Round Table on International Cooperation for Library and Information Services in Latin America, Washington.
Organized by the Library Development Program of the OAS. Conclusions on what needs to be funded from external sources.

1966 Meeting of Experts on National Planning of Library Services in Latin America, Quito.
Organized by Unesco, with OAS participation.

Meeting of Consultation on the Compilation of a Basic List of Books for University Libraries (Project LILLBU), S. José Purúa, México, organized by the Library Development Program with a grant from the Council on Library Resources, Inc.

Publication of Normas para las escuelas de bibliotecología (Cuadernos bibliotecológicos, no. 29), a report on the "Mesas de estudio" on education for librarianship in Latin America held in Medellín.

Publication of Estructura de la biblioteca universitaria en América Latina (Estudios bibliotecarios, no. 10), addressed to academic and administrative officials of Latin American Universities.

1967 Declaration of the Presidents of America, Punta del Este.

Advisory services to Interagency Book Committee, Task Force on Latin America, of the U.S. Department of State, Washington.

The International Relations Office of the American Library Association opens its office in Washington, under a contract with AID.

Publication of Clasificación Decimal de Dewey para pequeñas bibliotecas públicas y escolares, financed by Forest Press, Inc., in the series "Manuales del bibliotecario." Two supplements appeared in 1969 and 1970.

Establishment of Project LEER, for the compilation of lists of books in Spanish appropriate for public and school libraries, especially in the U.S. Joint effort of the Bro-Dart Foundation and the Books for the People Fund, Inc., with the collaboration of the OAS.

1968 Fifth Meeting of the Inter-American Cultural Council, Maracay. Mentions "university and school libraries" as one of the fundamental activities of the new Regional Educational Development Program (CIC-10/68)

Inter-American Seminar on Archives, Ottawa
Recommends that the OAS grant fellowships for the training of Latin American archivists.

A Regional Library of Medicine is established in São Paulo, by an agreement between the Escola Paulista de Medicina, the Brazilian government, and the Pan American Health Organization, with the cooperation of the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

1969 The Library Development Program ceases to be a part of the Columbus Memorial Library, by Executive Order 69-3 of January 22. The Program remains in the Department of Cultural Affairs; The Columbus Memorial Library is transferred to the Office of Publications and Documents.

Sixth Meeting of the Inter-American Cultural Council, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
Approves the Regional Program for the Development of School and University Libraries, with FEMCIECC funds.

Meeting in Bogota to begin work on national planning of libraries in Colombia.

Grant from the Tinker Foundation to Books for the People Fund, Inc., to assure continuation of Project LEER.

1970 Meeting of a Group of Experts in Scientific Documentation, Bogotá, in collaboration with the Department of Scientific Affairs of the OAS.

Symposium on Scientific and Technical Publications, Caracas, organized by the Regional Program of Scientific and Technological Development.

Technical Assistance Mission to Colombia for national planning of library services.

Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to Books for the People Fund, Inc., to support Project LEER.

Advisory mission to the Library of the Universidad National Autónoma de Honduras, to formulate a development plan, 1971-75.

Exploratory mission to the Library of the Universidad Centroamericana, Managua, Nicaragua, for future technical assistance.

Seminar on Planning of National Networks of Scientific and Technical Information, Madrid, organized by the Oficina de Educación Iberoamericana (Spain) and Unesco.

1971 Seminar for Policy Makers/Prime Movers, organized by the Technical Information Diffusion Systems Program of the Department of Scientific Affairs of the OAS, and administered by Battelle Memorial Institute, in Washington.

Technical Assistance Mission to the Library of the Universidad Centroamericana, Managua, Nicaragua.

Technical Assistance Mission to the National Library of the Dominican Republic for the establishment of a National Library Service.

First special course for the Professional Training of University Librarians, Multinational Project for the Development of School and University Libraries, Inter-American Library School, Medellín.

Establishment of Regional Educational Libraries, Supporting Action to the National Library of Perú, Lima, as part of the Multinational Project for the Development of School and University Libraries.

Seminar on Automation of Libraries and Bibliography, and Systems Analysis, Inter-American Library School, Medellín.

Publication of Reglas de catalogación angloamericanas (ALA) in the series "Manuales del bibliotecario".